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CANTWELL
CAFU
D'ARMATA

IRON MAN

Korvac, resurrected in an android body, seeks to boost his already-formidable powers to godlike levels by traveling to *TAA II*, Galactus' worldship. With Korvac holding War Machine hostage, Tony was forced to improvise and assembled an eclectic team of heroes to pursue him off-planet. While War Machine managed to escape, Korvac gravely injured Tony before setting off for space.

OVERCLOCK

IRON MAN

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YOU THINK HALCYON CAN HANDLE THE CONTROLS ON HIS OWN FOR A SECOND?

"YOU KIDDING ME? HE'S FLYING HIS FIRST ***FASTER-THAN-LIGHT DRIVE ENGINE.*** KID'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS ***LIFE.***"

YOU GOT ME JACKING UP THIS ***BRAND-NEW ARMOR*** TO LEVELS WE HAVEN'T EVEN TESTED.

WE'RE JUST DOUBLING THE FORCE OF THE RAW PUNCH.

FROM 20,000 NEWTONS TO ***40,000*** NEWTONS. THAT'S... ***INSANE.***

*MY FIST ALREADY STRIKES AT **385 MILES PER HOUR**, SO WE'LL JUST CAP IT AT AN **EVEN 500.***

WITH THESE NUMBERS, IF YOU HIT A SURFACE THAT DOESN'T GIVE, THE PUNCH WILL ***EXPLODE YOUR HEART.***

*KORVAC'LL GIVE. HE'LL **CRACK.***

HE'S MADE OF ***GRAPHENE,*** MAN. THAT STUFF STOPS A ***.50 CALIBER BULLET.***

*I KNOW WHAT THE ENCLAVE USED. IT'S **BILAYER.** STRONG, BUT IMPERFECT.*

*HE'S NOT LIKE US. HE'S NOT **STEEL.** IF WE DENT, CRACK? ODDS ARE, WE'RE STILL GOOD TO GO.*

*HE CRACKS, EVEN A **TINY** BIT...AND I CAN **RIP HIM APART** LIKE CHEAP CARDBOARD.*

YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF *KILLED.* KORVAC IS PURE *ENERGY.*

RIGHT. ENERGY WEAPONS WON'T WORK. BUT I CAN HIT HIM HARD.

PLUS I HAVE BACKUP.

YOU MEAN THE *HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS* OUT THERE?

I MEAN YOU. IT'S YOUR TURN FOR A TUNE-UP. SIT DOWN.

TONY, I TRUST YOU LIKE A *BROTHER.* BUT THAT'S ABOUT *ALL* YOU'RE RIDING ON RIGHT NOW.

I'LL TAKE IT, BUD.

"SENDING OUR S.O.S. SIGNAL OUT FAR AND WIDE. HOPEFULLY SOMEONE OUT THERE HEARS US."

THANKS, MISTY. CROSSING FINGERS OVER HERE.

WE NEED A TEAM NAME. LIKE...*STAR WARRIORS?*

WAY TOO CLOSE TO *STAR WARS.* BESIDES, WE'RE NOT A TEAM, FROG-MAN. WE'RE MORE LIKE...*EMPLOYEES* OF TONY STARK.

OKAY, FINE, SCARLET. WHAT ABOUT...*GOD FIGHTERS?*

CAN SOMEONE EVEN TELL ME WHAT "*GOD*" MEANS IN THIS UNIVERSE? WE TALKING JEHOVAH, YAHWEH, ALLAH, BUDDHA, THANOS--

BUDDHA WAS A MAN.

THANOS WAS A TITAN.

SERIOUSLY-- IS GOD AN ANDROID? A CELESTIAL? A *GLOVE* WITH *GEMS?*

ARE YOU TAKING ABOUT A GOD OR *THE* GOD?

IS THERE A *DIFFERENCE* AT THIS POINT?

IT'S ALL CELLS, MOLECULES AND ATOMS. "YOU" ARE THE ***SUM TOTAL*** OF MUSCULAR REFLEXES HOLDING YOUR BODY TOGETHER THAT ENDS UP THINKING IT'S ***SOMETHING***...WHICH IS TO SAY ***SOMEONE.***

SO...THE IDEA OF ***ME***...IT'S LIKE... A ***SIDE EFFECT*** OF BEING ALIVE?

EXACTLY. ***HARD SCIENCE.*** THAT'S IT.

HEAR THAT? THE ***TEST TUBE CLONE*** SAYS IT'S JUST SCIENCE.

...

LOOK, MAN.

GOD IS ***BALANCE.*** BALANCE... IS SOMETHING SACRED. ***DELICATE.*** BUT ***POWERFUL.*** THE SCALES ARE ALWAYS ***TIPPING,*** AND THEY HAVE TO BE REBALANCED. ***CONSTANTLY.***

THAT IS WHAT WE DO. WE WORK...WE ***FIGHT...*** TO ***REBALANCE.*** IT IS OUR ***VOCATION.***

WE TAKE OUR CELLS, MOLECULES, ATOMS... AND WE ***DEDICATE*** OURSELVES TO BALANCE.

THAT IS HOW WE WORSHIP THIS UNIVERSE AND TREAT IT WITH ***REVERENCE.***

WOW. GARGOYLE WITH THE MIC DROP.

"KORVAC SHOWED ME WHAT HE WANTS TO DO TO ALL OF EXISTENCE."

HE SHOWED IT TO YOU?

WELL, NOT SO MUCH SHOWED. MORE LIKE... PREVIEWED.

HE'S REALLY IN YOUR HEAD, ISN'T HE?

YES. AND THAT MEANS HE KNOWS WE'RE COMING. HE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE.

I WASN'T PLANNING ON AMBUSHING HIM.

THAT MEANS HE'LL BE READY.

SO WILL I.

IT'D BE NICE TO KISS YOU RIGHT NOW.

IT WOULD BE. BUT I CAN'T TAKE THIS STUPID BUCKET OFF MY HEAD. SMALL MATTER OF A BROKEN NECK...

THAT WAS KIND OF LIKE...MAKING OUT WITH A *SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.*

YOU DO THAT OFTEN?

YOU HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IF YOU LOSE THE KEY.

YOU KNOW...I'M A LIABILITY. JUST ME *BEING* HERE GIVES KORVAC AN ADVANTAGE.

ACTUALLY... WHAT IF IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND? WHAT IF YOU...TRIED TO REACH HIM?

THAT'S... INTERESTING.

I'M NOT EXPECTING TO REASON WITH HIM... BUT YOU USED TO BE A MIND WARRIOR ONCE UPON A TIME...

THAT WAS A *WHILE AGO*...AND I *KINDA* GOT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOKED...

I KNOW YOU. YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

C'MON, IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

REMOTE QUADRANT ZULU. GOSS SECTOR BORDER.

THEY ARE GAINING, KORVAC.

NOT *ONLY* DOES STARK HAVE AN FTL, BUT IT'S MORE *POWERFUL* THAN *OURS.*

HE HAD *YEARS* TO DEVELOP HIS, BLIZZARD. I BUILT MINE IN *FOUR WEEKS.*

I...DON'T MEAN TO CRITICIZE--

OF COURSE NOT, DONALD. WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO *WANE* IN OUR FAITH, ELSE WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE *TRUTH,* YES?

MMMMMPH!

BROTHER MILOS, *DECELERATE* AND DRAW THEM CLOSER INTO THIS SECTOR.

THEN WE'LL *DESTROY* THEM. I NEED *ZERO* THOUGHT OF THEM IN MY MIND AS WE BOARD *TAA II.*

...YOU...?

LOOKS LIKE THIS ROAD ISN'T JUST ONE WAY, HUH?

HOW DID YOU...?

I USED TO HAVE PRETTY KEEN **PSIONIC ABILITIES.** GUESS WITH ALL YOUR FIDDLING YOU STIRRED UP THE OL' **MIND POT.**

EVEN IF I WOULD **DEIGN** TO LET YOU ACCESS MY THOUGHTS, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EVEN **BEGIN** TO UNDERSTAND THEM?

HEY, PAL, I WAS ALMOST **VALEDICTORIAN** IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO MIND YOUR Ps AND Qs.*

PLUS SHE HAS MY HELP.

*SEE PATSY AND HEDY #95. --TOM

TONY...NICE TO SEE YOU. HOW'S THE **NECK?**

FINE, THANKS FOR ASKING. IMPRESSIVE FTL DRIVE BY THE WAY, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS MINE **IS** A LITTLE FASTER.

OKAY, LET'S NOT START MEASURING EACH OTHER'S FTL DRIVES...

NEITHER OF YOU CAN HURT ME LIKE THIS. YOUR MINDS ARE SCATTERED. EXHAUSTED. TOO **ANGRY.**

AND YOUR SHIP IS GOING TO BE BLOWN APART IN MINUTES.

THEN WE STILL HAVE A LITTLE TIME FOR YOU TO SHOW ME THIS **UTOPIA** YOU PLAN TO CREATE.

PATSY'S ALREADY GOTTEN A GLIMPSE.

RIGHT, BUT I'M SURE IT'S NOT ALL JUST ONE BIG THOMAS KINKADE PAINTING.

I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT ACTUALLY **WORKS.** THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF **UNIVERSAL HARMONY.**

YOU... REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

I ASKED, DIDN'T I?

YOU'RE... **SINCERE.** I NEVER EXPECTED...

WHAT?

I NEVER CONSIDERED THAT YOU'D WANT ME TO...SHARE MY **VISION** WITH YOU...

IT'S QUITE... IT'S QUITE **BEAUTIFUL,** YOU KNOW...

IT'S **PERFECT.**

IT'S SIMPLE. ALL THINGS WILL BECOME THE **AGGREGATE.** ONE SINGLE ENTITY.

WHAT ENTITY?

YOU?

NO. IN THIS UTOPIA THERE **IS** NO ME.

I DON'T BUY THAT FOR A **SECOND.**

I BECOME A **SEAMLESS PART** OF THE AGGREGATE, AS DOES **EVERYTHING.**

THIS COLLECTIVE AGGREGATE KNOWS ONLY **PEACE** AND **CALM.** ALL ACTS ARE ONES OF **SOFTNESS** AND **GRACE.**

UNIVERSAL GOOD IS OMNIPRESENT AND OWNED BY NO **INDIVIDUAL,** NOT EVEN **MYSELF.**

THE SELF **MELTS AWAY** COMPLETELY. IT SERVES ONLY THE **AGGREGATE.**

MEANING YOU.

NO. SOMETHING **GREATER.** ALL WILL MELD.

SHOW ME THIS AGGREGATE.

ALL ENTROPY WILL BE REVERSED.

SAMENESS. ONENESS. UNITY.

NO HATE. FEAR. WAR.

NONE OF THE ANCIENT EVILS.

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?

LIVING EXTENSIONS OF THE AGGREGATE. FLAWLESS IN EVERY CONCEIT.

IS THIS ONE EXAMPLE OF NEW LIFE-FORMS?

NO, THIS IS ALL LIFE ITSELF IN ITS NEW CONCEPTION. ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.

SO...IT'S ENTIRELY HOMOGENOUS. LIMITED ONLY TO THIS SINGULAR TYPE OF EXISTENCE. NO FREEDOM, NO FLARE, NO DEVIATION...NOT EVEN... COLOR.

JUST... NOTHING THINGS GRAZING ON... NOTHING.

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS UTOPIA SUCKS.

THIS IS IT? THIS IS WORTH DEATH AND MURDER? SO WE ALL GET TO BE... CRYSTALS EATING CRYSTALS?

HOW DARE YOU CRITIQUE ME? YOURS IS AN OPINION OF A...A...PROKARYOTE! A MICROBE! BACTERIUM!

YOU SUFFER BECAUSE YOU GRASP ONLY FOR SURVIVAL. YOU CAN'T SEE BEYOND THAT, WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO DO IT FOR YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE ME TO CARE FOR YOU.

BIG K, I DON'T MEAN TO #$%& IN YOUR WIZARD HAT, BUT THE AGGREGATE, THE GLASS CREATURES? THIS IS ALL ABOUT YOU. IT'S OBVIOUSLY--CRINGINGLY--ABOUT YOU.

IT'S A VANITY PROJECT, AND IF YOU WORKED FOR ME...I'D FIRE YOUR ASS.

VENOM

TONY? TONY?!

OH, I SEE...YOU COWARD...

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!

ME?! NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL!

YOU DOUBT ME AS A SAVIOR? YOU THINK ALL THIS IS JUST SOME SILLY WHIM?

ZVRREOOMMMM

THEN EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF.

TONY! WHAT THE HELL JUST--

I CAME IN HERE AND TONY WAS *THERE*, AND THEN HE... *HELLCAT!*

BLIZZARD, GET TO THE AFT CANNONS AND HAVE THE CONTROLLER PREPARE ALL MISSILE CHAMBERS. *NOW.*

UNICORN, COME AROUND *SHARPLY*... I'M GOING TO *STOMP* THESE BUGS OUT OF *EXISTENCE.*

OKAY, WE FINALLY GOT A *VISUAL*...

AND HERE THEY COME...*FAST*... *DAMN*...

RHODEY! TONY'S GONE!

GONE?!

RIGHT AS I FOUND HIM, HE JUST...*BLINKED OUT OF EXISTENCE.* AND HELLCAT'S ALL *FRIED UP* AGAIN--

HOLD UP. WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A DAMN *DOGFIGHT* IN OUTER $#%# SPACE...

"...I NEED GUNNERS IN THE BELLY *AND* TAIL!"

TSWAOZCH

TSWAOZCH

TSWAOZCH

TSWAOZCH

DAMMIT! EVASIVE MANEUVERS, KID! FLOOR IT AND TIE THESE BASTARDS UP IN A KNOT!

SWAP

...WHAT THE HELL...?

<LOCATION. UNMAPPED.> <NO KNOWN REF FILES.> <SEARCHING... NO RESULTS.><FOLLOWING SYSTEMS HINDERED: FLIGHT. WI-FI ACCESS.>

WHERE IS THIS...? MY JET BOOTS DON'T EVEN WORK...

ONE MOMENT I'M IN KORVAC'S MIND...ON MY SHIP...THEN...

DID *HE* DO THIS? DID *HE* SEND ME HERE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ***SYSTEM*** THIS IS, LET ALONE ***PLANET.*** OR GALAXY. IS THIS...EVEN... ***REALITY?***

HEY, MAYBE I'M DEAD. ***AGAIN.*** GREAT.

IT SURE WOULD HELP CLEAR THINGS UP IF THERE WERE AT LEAST ***ONE*** OTHER SINGLE LIVING THING OUT HERE--

DON'T MOVE! COLONY PATROL!

TRESPASSER. *LOCATORS REPORT YOU TRIPPED THE* ***PERIMETER*** *A WAYS BACK. YOU'RE A* ***NON-AUTHORIZED,*** *WHICH MEANS WE'RE TAKIN' YA IN, LESSIN' YA WANT US TO* ***NEUTRONIZE*** *YA RIGHT HERE, EH?*

ARE YOU... CANADIAN...?

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT

TONY STARK HAS VANISHED IN THE MIDDLE OF SPACE, AND HIS FRIENDS ARE MOMENTS AWAY FROM DEATH AT KORVAC'S HANDS. IT'S UP TO A SHELL-SHOCKED HELLCAT TO DIG DEEP INTO HER MIND WITH THE HELP OF HER OLD FRIEND AND MENTOR...MOONDRAGON!

ZONE